

Community Environmental Advisory Commission Agenda

Regular Meeting

June 21, 2021 - 05:00 PM

Location:

Minneapolis City Hall

350 S 5th St. Room 132

Members present: Anna Johnson, Lauren Fleming, Sandy Fazeli, LesLee Jackson, Nicholas Minderman, Maddie Henderson, Mark Dhennin, Tess Dornfeld, Mathew Douglas-May, Suzanne Savanick Hansen (Quorum - 10)

Members absent: Hannah Bohn-Jenkins, Max Dalton, Indigo Davitt- Liu, Meron Demissie, Divine Islam, Toya Lopez, Barbara Lunde, Erin Niehoff, Jaqueline Zepeda

Staff: Kim W. Havey, Bjorn Olson, Kelly Muellman

Guests: India (Pillsbury United Communities documenter)

Call to Order

1. Introductions: Name, pronouns, something you are looking forward to with summer (solstice)
2. Roll Call. Anna opened the meeting and asked Bjorn Olson called roll. Quorum Present.
3. Adoption of the agenda and acceptance of minutes. Anna asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Sandy made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the Roof Depot Update from Council Member Chavez and accept the [May 17, 2022 meeting minutes](#). Mark seconded the motion. On voice vote, the motion was adopted unanimously.

Consent

Land Acknowledgement: As we meet here today, we are reminded that Minneapolis is situated on the homelands of the Dakota people. An area that is steeped in rich Indigenous history, it is home to Indigenous people from more than 30 different nations. As a City, we have a responsibility to care for the land on which we live and work and all its natural surroundings. This stewardship is an integral part of our involvement in this commission, and we honor it as we begin our meeting. We now open this space to discuss ways in which we can support Indigenous people in our community.

Comments from CEAC members:

- Fort Snelling at Bdote has a new welcome center with more Native history.

Discussion:

Public Works – McKnight air monitoring geomapping grant.

The Public Works department has received a \$100,000 grant from the McKnight Foundation to work with Aclima for 1-year to map air quality in the Green Zones and areas of concentrated poverty in Minneapolis. This is tied into the Mobility Hubs work.

Q: Will there be air quality checks in higher wealth neighborhoods to compare air quality?

A: Public Works would be able to better answer this question. In addition to the Aclima project, the Minneapolis Health Department is working with community members to place stationary air

sensors in the Green Zones and across the City to track particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, ozone, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides.

Stormwater Litter Permit update:

At the May meeting, CEAC discussed the stormwater management plan update and included litter in a comment letter. Even though CEAC missed the deadline for comments, the Stormwater Management Plan does include litter.

Sean Gosiewski from Resilient Cities and Communities is asking for CEAC volunteers to meet monthly and connect with Council Member Johnson and Public Works to address litter in the Stormwater Management Plan. Interested CEAC members will follow up with Bjorn Olson who will connect them with Sean.

Soldiers and Pioneers Cemetery landscaping management.

There is no herbicide or pesticide used on site. Public Works does use some electric landscaping equipment and are looking to acquire more as funds are available.

Minneapolis Climate Action and Equity Plan Updates.

MN350 and other coalition members have drafted a People's Climate Equity Plan. They have teams in every Ward meeting with Council members. CEAC may have a formal presentation in the near future.

The Peoples Climate Action Plan is in alignment with the City's Climate Action and Equity Plan update. The City will have a strategic focus emphasizing community engagement and prioritizing equity as well as establishing new goals. The City is contracting with several community organizations to reach specific cultural communities and has a new website with a survey for anyone to complete. In addition, consultants and Sustainability staff are meeting with internal city departments to further coordinate and align these initiatives across many existing City plans ((e.g., Transportation Action Plan, Comprehensive Plan, Food Action Plan, Green Zones work plans) to drive carbon emission reductions in a way that achieves equitable and just quality of life improvements. Following this engagement and "listening" phase, the City will establish a Steering Committee and Working Groups. The Steering Committee will have representatives from existing standing committees, such as CEAC, EVAC and Green Zones. The City is communicating with Hennepin County and other cities in the County on these activities. Sandy Fazeli recommended looking to Federal funds to plan or implement the Climate Action Plan.

Q: How will the Climate Action and Equity Plan update be affected by the challenges around the 2040 Comprehensive Plan?

A: The City is planning to appeal the decision. There may be some impacts if 2040 Comp Plan can't be implemented, but we anticipate more density in the areas already zoned for higher density and not expected in the largely residential areas.

Invitations to Council Members.

CEAC will be inviting individual council members to attend future meetings. CM Chavez will be coming in July. CM Payne will be coming in August. These will be opportunities to build rapport and accountability when Council receives letters from CEAC.

CMs Johnson and Koski would be good to invite as well.

Q: Is there a committee that has jurisdiction over environmental? Who is the chair that oversees that?

A: When Sustainability merges into the Health Department, the home committee for City Council will be Public Health and Safety. That committee is chaired by Council Member Vetaw. Sandy Fazeli has a template invitation to Council Members she can share with the group.

Roof Depot Update. CM Chavez sent a long list of updates on productive communications between East Phillips Neighborhood Institute (EPNI) and the City. Sandy was in touch with EPNI. Their concerns were around not having enough information to give a presentation to community on the updated proposal. They asked for CEAC to hold the city accountable to possible contamination that would get uncovered during demolition and construction. There seems to be positive movement toward June 30 deadline.

Kim spoke with Margaret Anderson Kelliher (Public Works Director). She feels like this is a solid plan that results in the community not having to repay the water fund or pay for clean-up of the site.

Bjorn will forward updates from Council Member Chavez.

CM Chavez is hosting a meeting tomorrow night at Phillips Community Center.

EPNI is meeting with Mayor Frey on June 27 and will go to City Council on June 30.

Q: Is there a timeline on the demolition?

CEAC could write a letter in the event of an insufficient demolition plan to be proactive. Sandy Fazeli has a draft letter which includes a commitment to environmental and health protections. Kim Havey noted the letter should emphasize deconstruction over demolition, which is named in the Sustainable Building Policy.

LesLee Jackson noted transportation of the waste is likely to create fugitive dust. Trucks should be completely sealed when traveling through neighborhoods to the dumps. Can this be included in the contract for the demolition company?

There was an email from Sierra Club questioning 1) whether the City could demolish the Roof Depot without releasing arsenic; 2) how many additional polluting vehicles the plan would bring into the neighborhood.

Nick made a motion to send a letter drafted during the June 21, 2022 CEAC meeting, with edits finalized by the chair, to the Mayor, Council and Public Works director regarding the proposed removal of the existing Roof Depot building.

Seconded: Matthew Douglas-May

The motion passed unanimously.

Open Streets registration.

Upcoming locations in the Green Zone include:

- Franklin Ave.: Sunday, July 10th from 11AM-4:30PM;
- West Broadway: Saturday, September 10th from 11AM-4:30PM.

Anna will send out a survey to see if folks can commit.

Other options are partnering with City Sustainability staff and MN350 tabling at events sponsored by Neighborhood and Community Relations. Kids' activities encourages folks to come to the table if the North Side coloring books are ready by September 10.

Hennepin Ave redesign

Two components of Hennepin Avenue redesign were vetoed on Friday, June 17th. CEAC wrote a letter in the spring supporting the plan; should CEAC invite Margaret Anderson Kelliher to attend a future meeting? The road won't be reconstructed until 2025 / 2026. Can CEAC work with Public Work advisory committees? They have a more direct line to staff and leadership. In past years CEAC has worked with the Pedestrian and Bicycle Advisory Committees. The topic was tabled for later discussion

Updates and Announcements from Commissioners and staff

- Applications are being taken now for the [Green Cost Share program](#) – pretty broad scope of energy efficiency, emission reduction for air pollution. Offers continuous, rolling year-round with quarterly deadlines.
- NACDI and Friends of the Falls have been hosting community conversations on future vision of the Upper Lock & Dam. What is CEAC's jurisdiction with Park Board? Not directly in our scope, but we have invited MPRB staff to give presentation and have discussion. If CEAC wrote a letter, they would have to write it to the City Council and copy the MPRB Commissioners.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7pm.

Possible Future CEAC Meeting Topics:

- MN350 – People's Climate Equity Plan
- Reimagine Public Safety Awareness Campaign
- Climate Action and Equity Plan Steering Committee and Task Force opportunities
- Bikes, Scooters and Mobility Hubs: What's ahead for 2022?
- Carbon Free Zones and fossil gas free development
- Sustainable building policies for City Financed economic development
- How to reduce plastic in the community?
- How do we reduce emissions from the HERC?

Masks and hand sanitizer will be provided. After 6pm the S 5th Street doors (light rail side) to City Hall are locked. Bus passes and parking passes for the Haaf Ramp are available.

Next Community Environmental Advisory Commission meeting: July 19, 2022 from 5-7 PM

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the City Coordinator's Office at 612-673-2563 or e-mail sustainability@minneapolismn.gov. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-263-6850. Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.